

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

Section 504 is...

A federal civil rights law. It protects students from disability discrimination by public schools, and by any college, trade school, or private school that gets federal funding.

Section 504 covers...

Students of all ages who have a physical or mental disability that substantially limits a major life activity. That can include reading, learning, and concentrating.

People with disabilities have the right to...

Reasonable accommodations giving them equal access to learning and school activities. Schools don't need to change their programs — just make sure they're accessible. Public K–12 schools may provide a written 504 plan when a disability gets in the way of a student's ability to learn the general education curriculum. A 504 plan may include:



Accommodations

Changes in the classroom to how the child learns the curriculum

Examples: extra time on tests, seating near the front of the class



Assistive technology

Tools that help the child work around barriers to learning

Examples: calculators, keyboards, graphic organizers



School services

Services that help the child get access to general education

Examples: speech therapy, transportation



Experienced disability discrimination?

K–12 public schools must provide a way for families to raise and resolve disputes. You can also visit ocrcas.ed.gov to learn how to file a complaint about disability discrimination by a school.